

CLAIM LISTING:

1. *(Original)* A prosthesis to replace a natural articular process of a natural facet joint on a vertebral body comprising a prosthesis body accommodating fixation to the vertebral body at or near a pedicle and without support by a lamina, and an artificial facet joint structure carried by the prosthesis body adapted and configured to replace a natural articular process of a natural facet joint.
2. *(Original)* A prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein the artificial facet joint structure is adapted and configured to replace a natural articular process of a natural facet joint after removal of at least some of a lamina from the vertebral body.
3. *(Original)* A prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein the artificial facet joint structure is adapted and configured to replace a natural articular process of a natural facet joint after removal of at least part of an accessory process from the vertebral body
4. *(Original)* A prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein the artificial facet joint structure is adapted and configured to replace a natural articular process of a natural facet joint after removal of at least part of a transverse process from the vertebral body
5. *(Original)* A prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein the artificial facet joint structure is adapted and configured to replace a natural articular process of a natural facet joint after removal of at least part of a pedicle from the vertebral body.
6. *(Original)* A prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein the artificial facet joint structure is adapted and configured to replace a natural articular process of a natural facet joint after removal of at least some of the natural articular process from the vertebral body.
7. *(Original)* A prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein the artificial facet joint structure is adapted and configured to replace a natural articular process of a natural facet joint after removal of at least some of the natural articular process and of at least some of a lamina from the vertebral body.

8. **(Original)** A prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein the artificial facet joint structure is adapted and configured to replace a natural articular process of a natural facet joint after removal of at least some of the natural articular process and of at least some of an accessory process from the vertebral body.

9. **(Original)** A prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein the artificial facet joint structure is adapted and configured to replace a natural articular process of a natural facet joint after removal of at least some of the natural articular process and of at least part of a transverse process from the vertebral body.

10. **(Original)** A prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein the artificial facet joint structure is adapted and configured to replace a natural articular process of a natural facet joint after removal of at least some of the natural articular process and of at least part of a pedicle from the vertebral body.

11. **(Original)** A prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein the artificial facet joint structure is adapted and configured to replace a natural articular process of a natural facet joint, and wherein the prosthesis body is adapted and configured to replace at least some of a lamina of the vertebral body.

12. **(Original)** A prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein the artificial facet joint structure is adapted and configured to replace a natural articular process of a natural facet joint, and wherein the prosthesis body is adapted and configured to replace at least some of a mamillary process of the vertebral body.

13. **(Original)** A prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein the artificial facet joint structure is adapted and configured to replace a natural articular process of a natural facet joint, and wherein the prosthesis body is adapted and configured to replace at least some of a pedicle of the vertebral body.

14. **(Original)** A prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein the prosthesis body is adapted and configured to replace at least some of a lamina of the vertebral body.

15. **(Original)** A prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein the prosthesis body is adapted and configured to replace at least some of a mamillary process of the vertebral body.

16. **(Original)** A prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein the prosthesis body is adapted and configured to replace at least some of a pedicle of the vertebral body.

17. **(Original)** A prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein the artificial facet joint structure is adapted and configured to articulate with a portion of a facet joint of an adjoining vertebral body.

18. **(Original)** A prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein the artificial facet joint structure is made of at least one selected prosthetic material.

19. **(Original)** A prosthesis according to claim 1 wherein the selected prosthetic material includes polyethylene, rubber, tantalum, titanium, chrome cobalt, surgical steel, bony in-growth material, ceramic, artificial bone, or a combination thereof.

20. **(Withdrawn)** A method of replacing, on a vertebral body, all or a portion of a natural articular process of a natural facet joint using the prosthesis defined in claim 1 to provide improved support for the spinal column, the method comprising the steps of (i) removing all or a portion of the natural articular process from the vertebral body, and (ii) fixing the prosthesis as defined in claim 1 to the vertebral body to replace the removed portion of the natural articular process with the artificial facet joint structure.

21. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 20 further including a step of removing at least some of the lamina from the vertebral body.

22. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 20 further including a step of removing at least part of a pedicle from the vertebral body.